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On March 16, 2001, my father died after suffering for some time with a cancerous condition known as Malignant Mesothelioma. This illness is the result of him working to support his family via the excavating sector as well as other segments of the construction business. Nobody ever worked harder or was more self-sacrificing and no one paid a higher price for his family dedication.

Now, we have something called Court Rule No. 2003-47. This is an attempt by asbestos companies and other big business interests to keep working class citizens from having their day in court with the very companies who placed my father in the jeopardy, which ended his life. Working class citizens should not be denied their Constitutional Rights because some Supreme Court Judges feel beholden to industry and big business. Defendants in lawsuits should face their accusers in court, not petition judges, whose job it is to interpret the law, not re-write it to suit big business in opposition to the rights of working people.

Why would we even consider letting the Michigan Supreme Court decide if asbestos related cases should go to court anyway? Are they attempting to repay debts owed to business for help in elections? The judges themselves alone have the answer. I do not need or desire a court rule to deny me my day in court.

Court Rule No. 2003-47 should not even be considered as this gives the appearance that the Supreme Court is serving corporations rather than the public. This isn't the message we should be sending. I am against The Supreme Court of Michigan denying my constitutional right to litigate any company, which may have been instrumental in shortening the life of my beloved father. Let the courts proceed! Let the trials begin. Let justice have its chance.

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